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THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI.

MASTER OF  
KUNG FU**DEATH**...in the City of Lights!



SCOTTIE

# A Cracker Jack story

OKAY, SCOTTIE! THE SCORE IS TIED, BASES LOADED, AND TWO OUTS! GET IN THERE AND SHOW 'EM WHAT YOU'RE MADE OF.



STRIKE ONE!

GULP! WHAT IF I STRIKE OUT???



STRIKE TWO!

YOU CAN DO IT, SCOTTIE!

YOU'RE A CRACKER JACK.



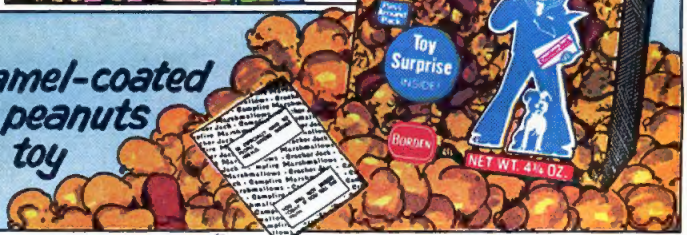
YOU DID IT, SCOTTIE.

WE WON THE PLAYOFFS!

WHAT A CRACKER JACK!

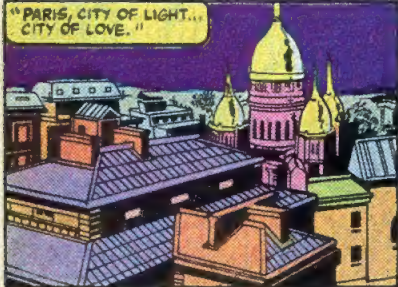


Crunchy caramel-coated popcorn and peanuts and a secret toy surprise!

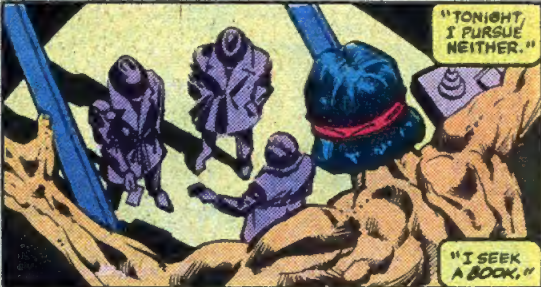




"PARIS, CITY OF LIGHT...  
CITY OF LOVE."



"TONIGHT,  
I PURSUE  
NEITHER."



"I SEEK  
A BOOK."

Stan Lee  
PRESENTS:

# PASSING STRANGERS!

"HERE I HAVE  
FOUND IT."

**KRAASH!**

"I DO NOT KNOW  
WHO BELOW IS  
BRITISH TRAITOR  
AND WHO IS  
RUSSIAN SPY."

"IN TRUTH, I DO NOT  
CARE. I AM IN THE  
EMPLOY OF SIR DENIS  
NAYLAND SMITH, AS  
AN AGENT IN HIS  
ESPIONAGE OUTFIT,  
'FREELANCE  
RESTORATIONS.'"

WHO--?!  
SHANG-  
CHI?!

"AND THOUGH I HAVE  
AGREED TO PERFORM  
THIS TASK FOR HIM,  
NEITHER PRIZE NOR  
PURSUIT OFFERS  
PERSONAL SATISFACTION."

STEVEN GRANT / DAVID MAZZUCCHELLI / VINCE COLLETTA / MICHAEL HIGGINS / CHRISTIE SCHEELÉ / DENNY O'NEIL / JIM SHOOTER  
Scripter Penciler Inker Letterer Colorist Editor Editor-in-Chief

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"METHODICALLY, THE KGB AGENTS REACH FOR THEIR WEAPONS."



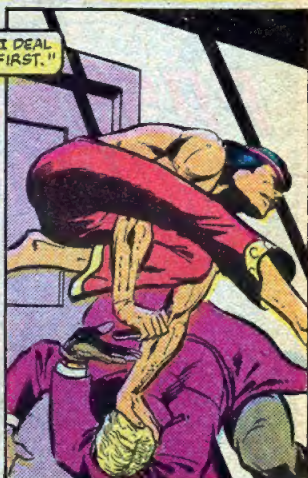
"THE ENGLISHMAN SEEKS REFUGE IN AN EMPTY ROOM."



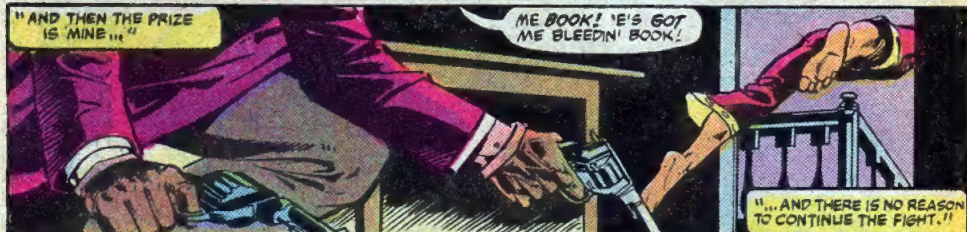
"THE RUSSIANS ARE MORE DANGEROUS..."



"... AND SO I DEAL WITH THEM FIRST."



**FUMP!**



"AND THEN THE PRIZE IS MINE..."

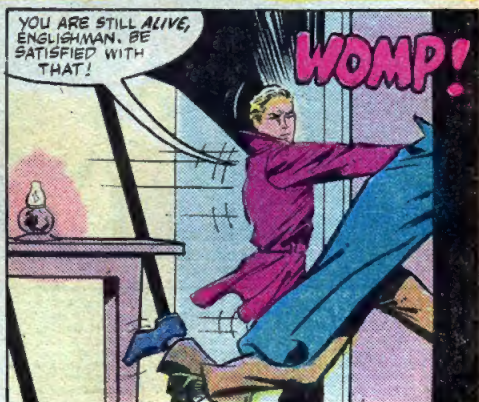
"ME BOOK! 'E'S GOT ME BLEEDIN' BOOK!"

"... AND THERE IS NO REASON TO CONTINUE THE FIGHT."



AFTER HIM! 'ERE NOW! I WENT TO A LOT OF TROUBLE TO STEAL THAT CODE BOOK.

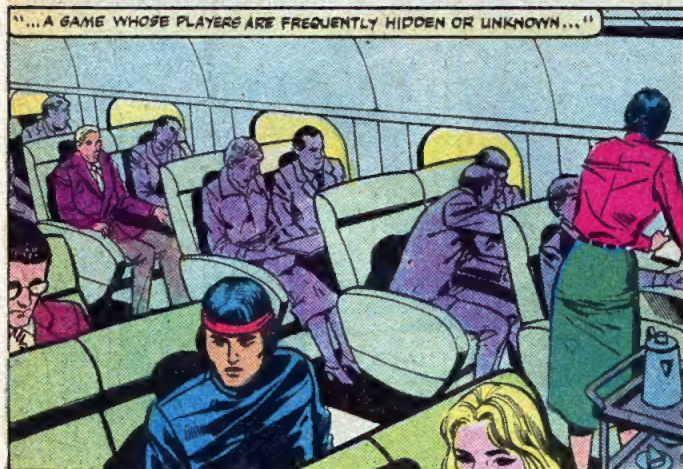
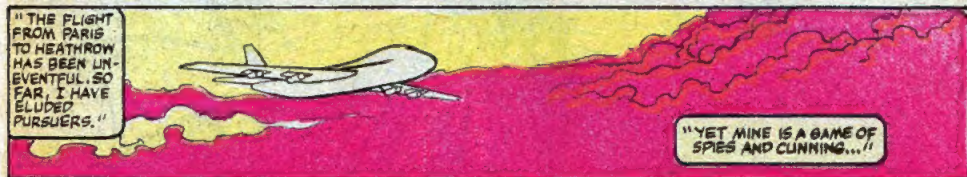
I WANT ME PAY AN' ME HOUSE IN SWISSLAND, WOT?



YOU ARE STILL ALIVE, ENGLISHMAN. BE SATISFIED WITH THAT!

**WOMP!**







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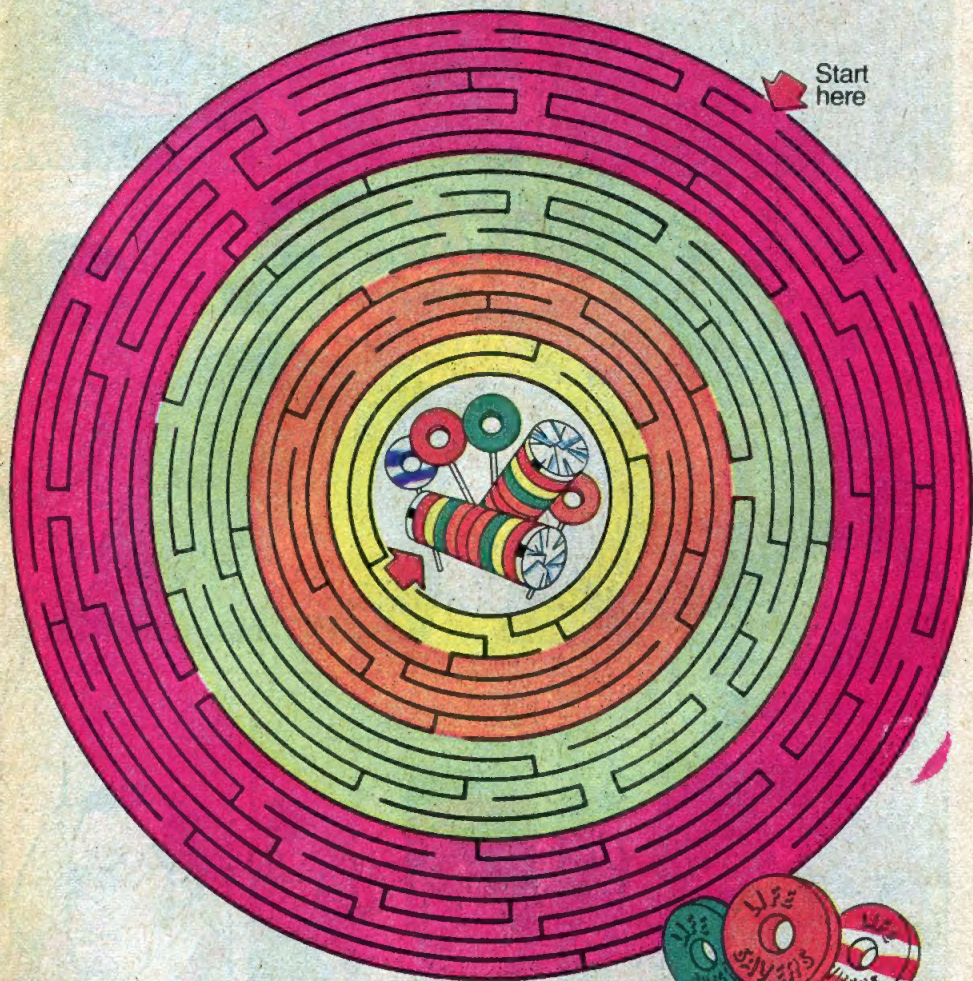
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Start  
here

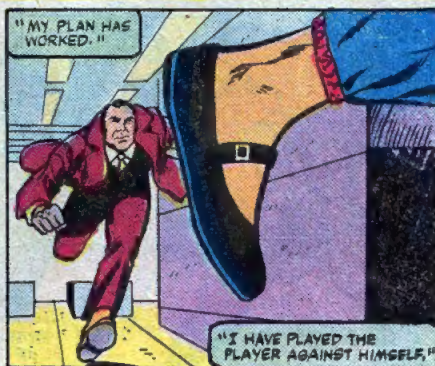
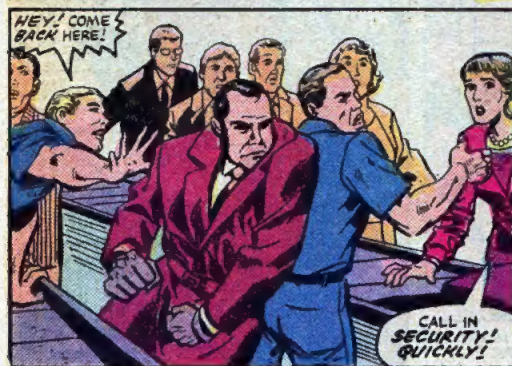
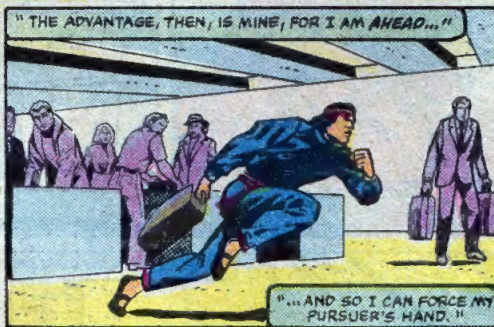
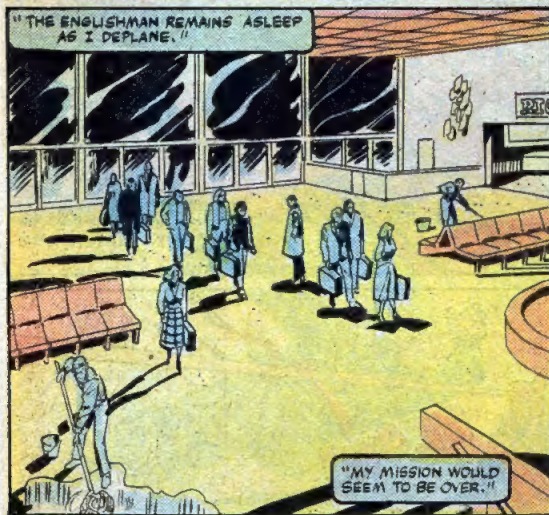
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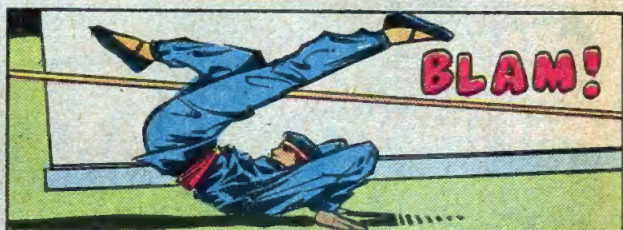
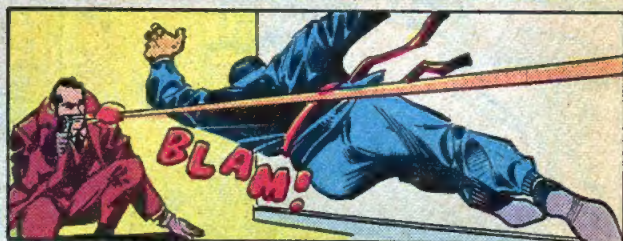




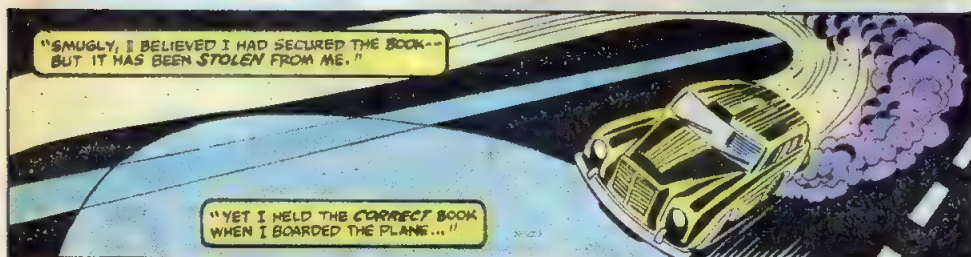
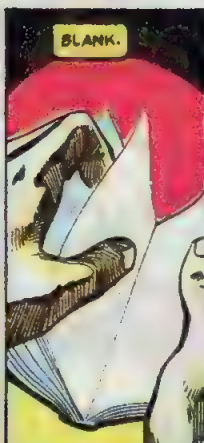
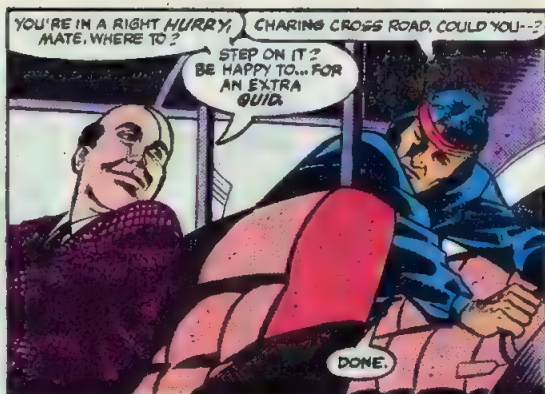
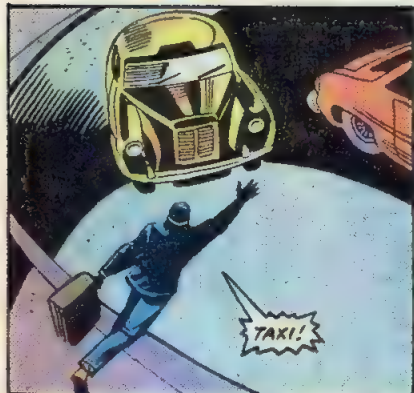




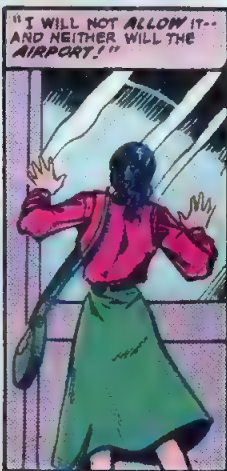
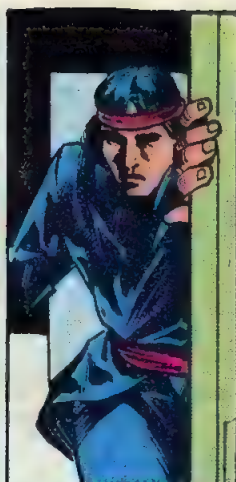
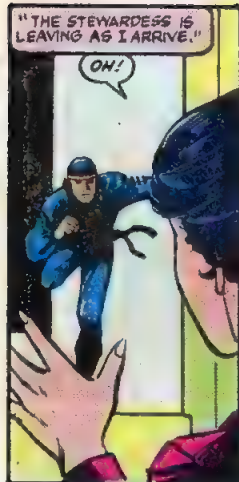
















I HAVE WHAT YOU NEED RIGHT HERE

"DOES SHE REACH FOR A GUN OR--?"



"NO." DON'T WORRY. I WON'T GIVE YOU A FIGHT.

THE BOOK'S WORTH LOTS, BUT MY SKIN'S WORTH MORE.



IT'S THE REAL THING. CHECK IT IF YOU LIKE.

"I DO."



WAIT! I'LL MAKE YOU A DEAL! WE'LL WORK TOGETHER-- SPLIT THE FEE!

WE SERVE DIFFERENT MASTERS, YOU AND I.

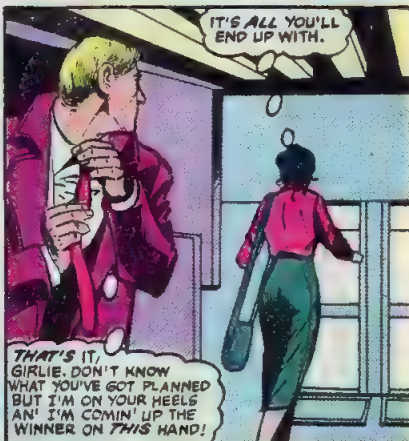


I DON'T SERVE ANYONE. STRICTLY FREELANCE, THAT'S WHAT I AM.

YOU SERVE GREED I AM RULED BY HONOR.

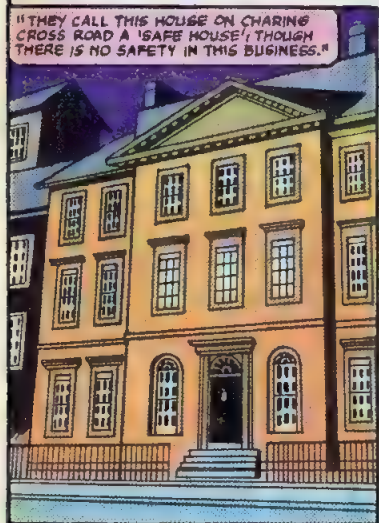


HOLD ONTO YOUR HONOR, CHINAMAN.



IT'S ALL YOU'LL END UP WITH.

THAT'S IT, GIRLIE. DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'VE GOT PLANNED BUT I'M ON YOUR HEELS AND I'M COMIN' UP THE WINNER ON THIS HAND!



"THEY CALL THIS HOUSE ON CHARING CROSS ROAD A 'SAFE HOUSE', THOUGH THERE IS NO SAFETY IN THIS BUSINESS."



"INSIDE THE HOUSE, SIR DENIS NAYLAND-SMITH-- MY EMPLOYER AND MY FRIEND-- WAITS. SMITH AND ONE OTHER."

AND I'M SURE HE'S EARNING IT, MR. BESS. BUT CODES ARE BROKEN EVERY WEEK. WHY IS THIS ONE SO IMPORTANT?

WHAT'S KEEPING SHANG-CHI, BLAST HIS EYES?! WE'RE PAYING HIM WELL ENOUGH, YOU KNOW.



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# SPIDER-MAN

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TRUST ME-- IT'S THE BEST TRAP I CAN THINK OF TO CATCH THAT CANNY CROOK, **MAGNA MIND!**

LATER...

GEE, BOSS, THE PUZZLE'LL NEVER FIGURE OUT HOW WE GOT THE DIAMOND WITHOUT TRIPPING THE ALARM!

HA-NA! I'M THE GREATEST CRIMINAL BRAIN-- I CAN'T RESIST A REAL CHALLENGE. THE TOUGHER THE BETTER!

WAIT-- WHAT'S THIS-- A PUZZLE! HMM...

LET'S SEE HOW FAST I CAN PUT IT BACK INTO "BALL" SHAPE. IT SHOULD BE SIMPLE FOR ME TO SOLVE!

HOURS LATER...

THIS IS HABIT-FORMING! EACH SHAPE I MAKE IS MORE INTRIGUING THAN THE LAST!

HURRY, BOSS! IT'S GETTING LATE!

YEAH, I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN, BOSS... I'M HOOKED TOO!

YOU'LL BOTH HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO WORK IT OUT-- BEHIND BARS!

SPIDER-MAN!

BAH!

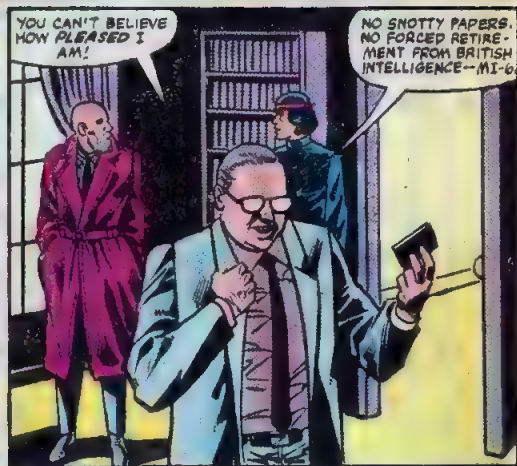
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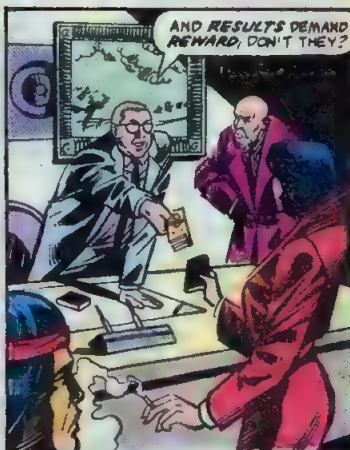
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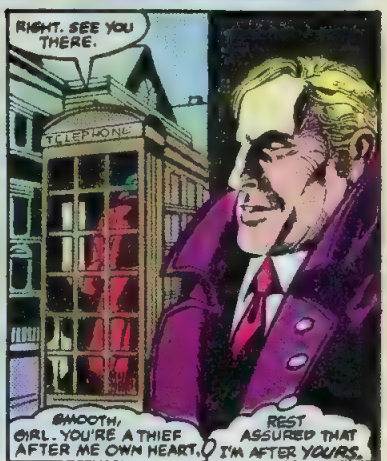
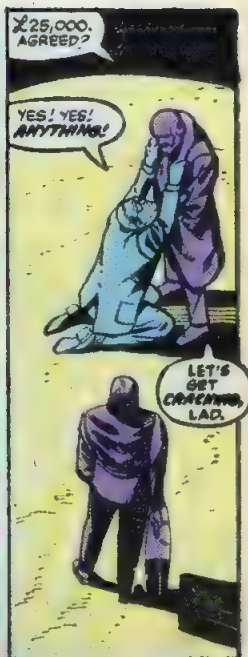














"BY THE NEXT EVENING, SMITH AND I FIND THE RUSSIANS. I RECOGNIZE THEM, TWO FROM THE PARIS HOUSE AND ONE FROM THE AIRPLANE."

"THROUGH THE LONDON RUSH HOUR WE FOLLOW THEM, AS THEY GO TO MEET VIENNA."

"AS WATER ENCOUNTERING A ROCK, I WILL FLOW AROUND THE TRAFFIC."

YOU UNDERSTAND, COMRADE? WE BUY NOTHING.

THIS VIENNA HAS TROUBLED US TOO OFTEN IN THE PAST.

ELIMINATE HER AND OBTAIN THE BRITISH CODE, AND WE WILL ALL BE HEROES.

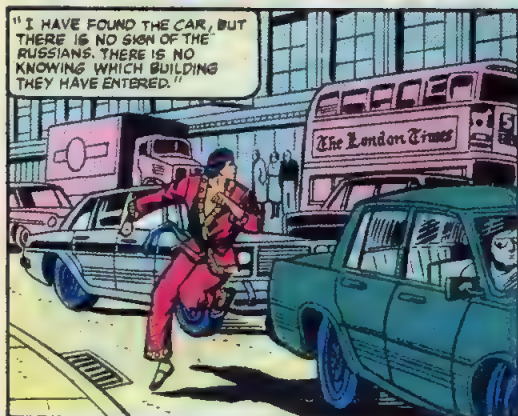
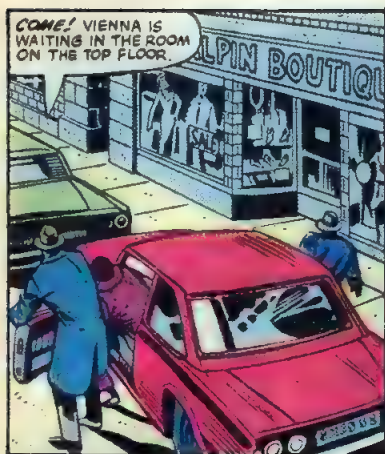
WE'RE LOSING THEM, LAD. THIS TRAFFIC IS GETTING TOO THICK TOO QUICKLY.

CAN YOU STILL SEE THE CAR?

SHANG-CHI?

"MY EFFORTS ARE IN VAIN. MY QUARRY IS OUT OF SIGHT."







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chew chew

Hey kid  
what d'ya  
want?

YUM

You want  
gum?  
Is that it?

YUM

How  
'bout  
uh....

Bubble  
Bubble  
Bubble Yum  
Bubble Yum.  
It says 'Super  
Yum'. Must be  
new, huh?

Hmm. Think  
I'll try a piece  
for you.

MMM

MMM!

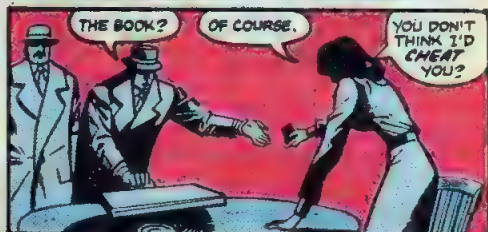
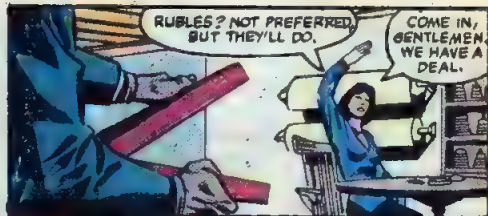
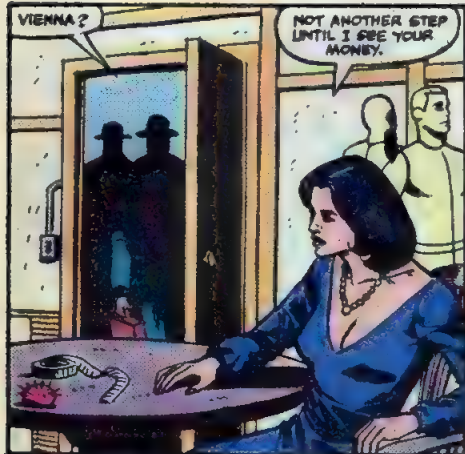
YUMM!

Super Yum  
Bubble Yum  
Bubble Gum.  
It's a Super Yum.

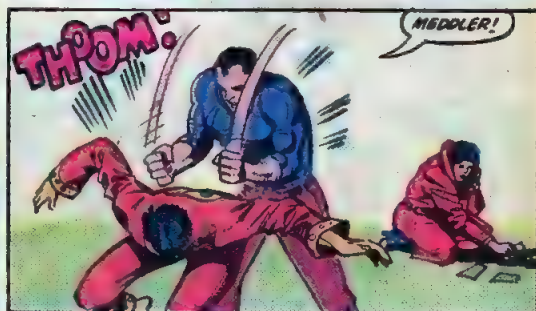
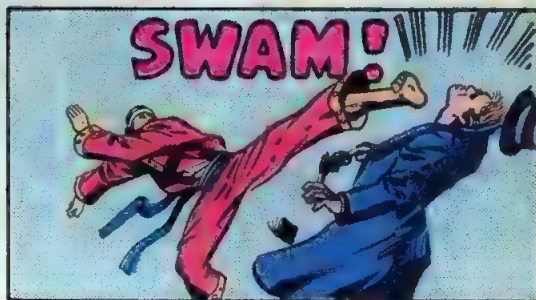
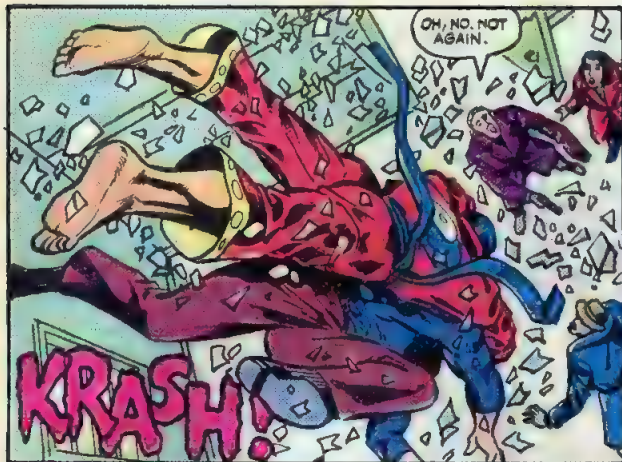
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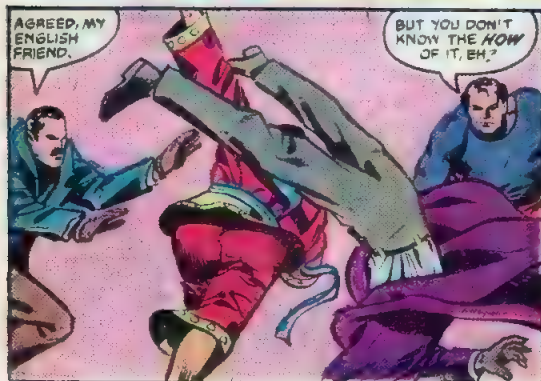




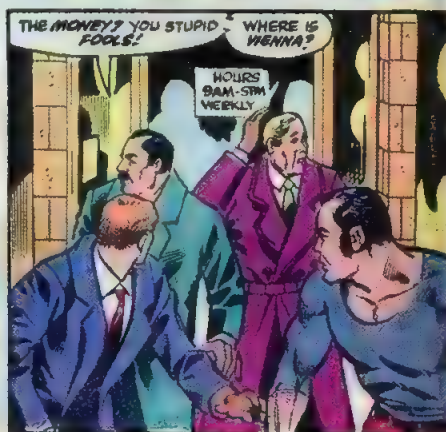
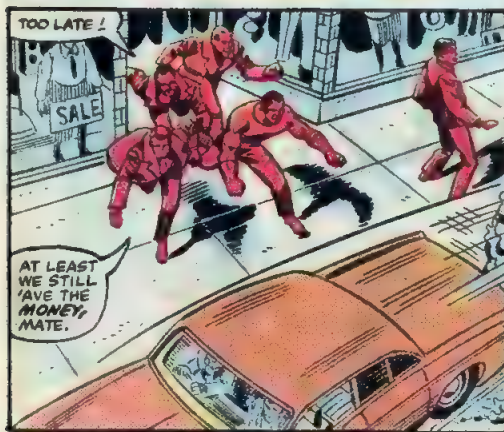
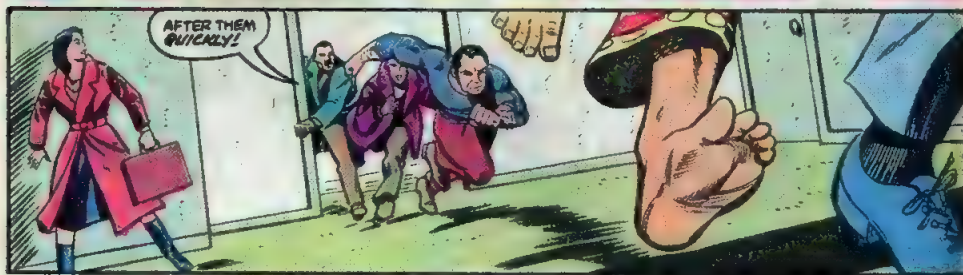




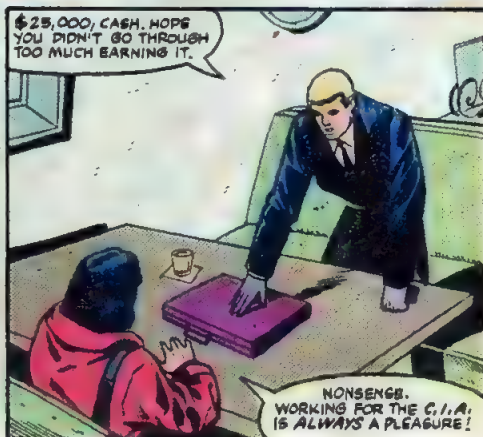
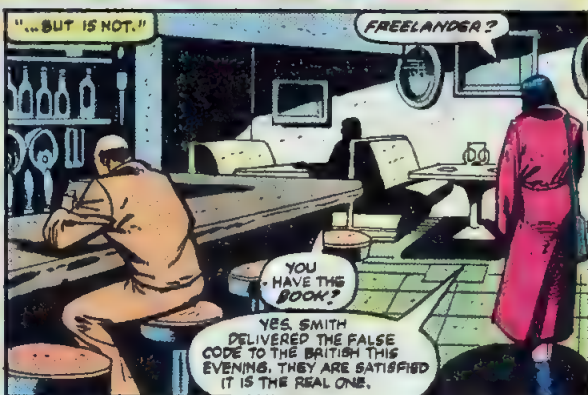
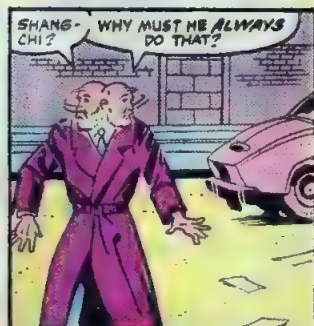
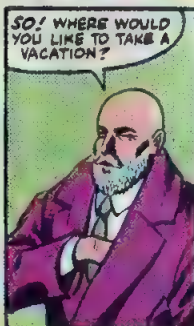
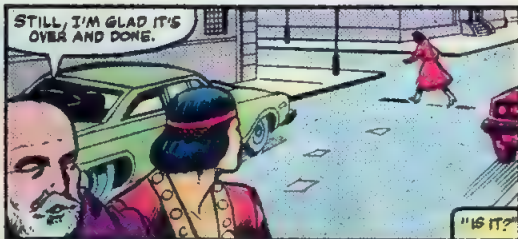




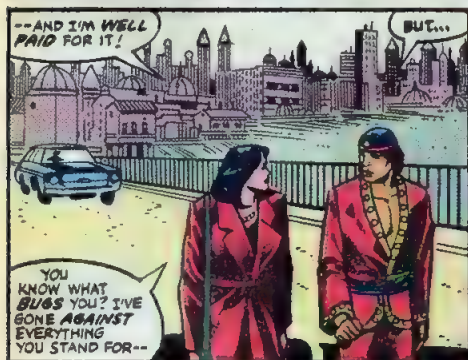
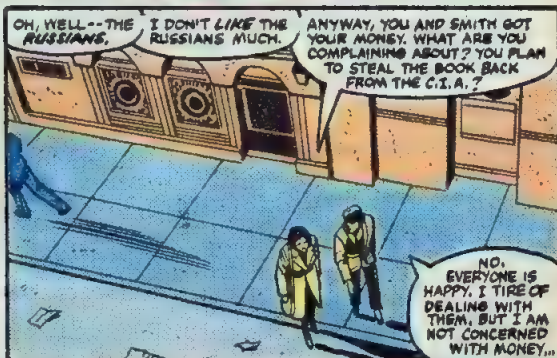














# BULLPEN BULLETINS

## STAN LEE

...fearless Publisher, Presenter, and Creative Director of Mighty Marvel called me up from his office out in Los Angeles today. He thought he'd take out a few minutes from being a Hollywood Mogul to check in with me, your large, man-of-the-future-looking, ornery-but-basically-lovable Editor-in-Chief — just to see how the comics were doing. Well, I was delighted to tell him that the comics are doing great! This is our best year ever!

Needless to say, Stan was thoroughly impressed — but, he said something that made me very proud to know him. He said, "Jim, I love to hear that sales are good, but sometimes good sales can be a short-term fluke — what I really care about is whether or not the comics are good. If the comics are good, sales will take care of themselves." My sentiments exactly! Anyway, since Stan is a little behind in his reading, being that he's a busy film biz exec and all, I proceeded to tell him all about what's been going on in all our current titles, what's going on now, and all the daring, exciting developments I've got planned. When I finished, he was ecstatic! He said, "Jim, what you've got in the works is fantastic! It's the best plotting I've ever heard — the kind of stuff that makes Marvel number one! I'm absolutely delighted!"

I feel like a million bucks!

## WHICH BRINGS UP...

...the rumor of the month. It seems that some strange folks out there have been spreading the weird notion that we here at The House of Ideas are planning to make all sorts of drastic, destructive changes, tearing down everything we've built up over the years on a number of our top titles — even killing off a parcel of Marvel stars!

What balderdash!

Change, of course, is the essence of what makes the Marvel Universe come alive — and I'll be damned if I'll ever let things stagnate here. There are enough Dull Comics in the world without any Marvel titles slipping back into their ranks. I'm not crazy, though... at least not in a hero-destructive way.

## AND NOW A WORD FROM THE SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT...

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### A PROBLEM SOLVED!

Since I seem to be having a lot of trouble finding time to take a vacation — or sleep, or eat, or do anything but my job, I recently decided to combine a couple of little vacations with some work.

Two weeks ago, superstar artist/writer Jim Starlin invited a bunch of us up to his beautiful upstate New York home. Among those present were artist Berni Wrightson and his wife, colorist Michelle Brand, artist Carl Potts, artist/writer Bob Layton, colorist Christie Scheele, and of course, Jim Starlin and his wife, painter Daina Graziunas. We all played racketball at Jim's club, the Tiger Fitness Center in nearby Kingston, ate a magnificent meal at Rudis, a renowned area restaurant, picnicked on Jim's huge lawn, and enjoyed the Adirondack scenery. In between things, I wrote a few memos, answered some important mail, consulted with Jim about his new *Dreadstar* series, worked out a deal with Berni to do a cover for an upcoming *Dr. Strange* Special Edition reprint, and signed Bob to a Spider-Man Graphic Novel contract!

Last week, I met star scripter David Michelinie and ace inker Brett Breeding in Atlantic City for two days. We stayed in luxury at Caesar's Regency Hyatt on the Boardwalk, ate in several terrific restaurants, gambled a little, and in general enjoyed the resort facilities. In between things, I wrote a treatment for a possible TV show that I can't tell you about yet, answered some business questions of Brett's, and worked out an Avengers Graphic Novel plot with Dave.

Now that's how to work!

### ATTENTION COMIC SHOP OWNERS!

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Carol Kallish

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### NEXT MONTH...

I'm really going to take a break. Watch this space for our first Guest Columnist!

Hang in there.

*Stan Lee*

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### THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

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- ☐ **MOON KNIGHT #28**
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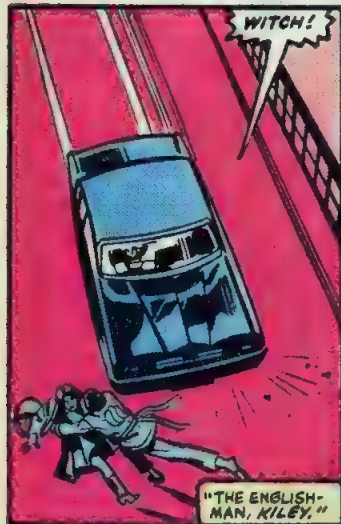
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